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APPLICATION OF

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

CASE NO. PUE-2002-00178

**For approval of a plan to
remedy billing errors**

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

May 23, 2002

On March 25, 2002, pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-100 B of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules"), Washington Gas Light Company ("Washington Gas" or "Company") filed a Petition for approval of "certain aspects" of its plan to remedy billing errors. Washington Gas requested the Commission approve its plan to use the annual leak survey program to identify customers who have been billed incorrectly.

By Order dated April 10, 2002, the Commission docketed the matter; determined that the matter should be treated as an Application pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 A of the Commission's Rules; assigned the matter to a Hearing Examiner; and directed any interested party and the Commission's Staff to file with the Commission by May 10, 2002, a responsive pleading to the Application or a request for hearing or both a responsive pleading and a request for hearing. The Company was also directed to provide public notice of its Application.

On May 9, 2002, Staff filed a Motion for Extension in which it asked that the deadline for interested parties and Staff to file responsive pleadings be extended from May 10, 2002, to May 24, 2002. In support of its Motion for Extension Staff stated that the additional time would allow Staff and other interested parties to reach agreement on a number of issues addressed in Washington Gas's Application. Staff's Motion for Extension was granted in a Hearing Examiner's ruling dated May 9, 2002.

On May 22, 2002, the Company filed a Motion for Extension, seeking an additional extension of the deadline for interested parties and Staff to file responsive pleadings be extended from May 24, 2002, to June 21, 2002. In support, Washington Gas maintained that additional time was needed for parties to reach agreement on issues addressed in the Company's Application. Furthermore, Washington Gas represented that the Staff, Division of Consumer Counsel of the Office of Attorney General, Arlington County Consumer Affairs, Fairfax County Consumer Services, Pepco Energy Services and Washington Gas Energy Services do not oppose the requested extension.

I find the Company's Motion for Extension should be granted. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED that the deadline for interested parties and Commission Staff to file responsive pleadings and requests for hearing is hereby extended from May 24, 2002, to June 21, 2002.

Alexander F. Skirpan, Jr.
Hearing Examiner